

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13

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P 261015 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1838

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 6361

CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB, US

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SIRIK MATAK TO SENATOR MANSFIELD ON U. S.
AIR SUPPORT

1. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS REQUESTED THE EMBASSY TO TRANSMIT TO WASHINGTON A LETTER DATED JUNE 25 FROM LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIRIK MATAK, MEMBER OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, TO SENATOR MANSFIELD CONCERNING THE PRESENT CAMBODIAN SECURITY SITUATION AND U. S. AIR SUPPORT. SINCE THIS LETTER, WHICH WAS WRITTEN IN ENGLISH AND A COPY OF WHICH WAS PROVIDED THE EMBASSY, DISCUSSES A MATTER OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO THE SENATOR, WE CONSENTED TO TRANSMIT IT IN ITS ENTIRETY (AND WITHOUT CORRECTION OF FAULTY ENGLISH) IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS FOR DELIVERY BY THE DEPARTMENT TO AMBASSADOR UM SIM. THE ORIGINAL IS BEING POUCHED THROUGH KHMER FACILITIES.

2. BEGIN TEXT: EXCELLENCY, RECALLING THE GOOD MEMORY OF OUR CONVERSATION IN AUGUST 1971, DURING WHICH YOUR EMINENT QUALITIES OF A JUSTICE AND FREEDOM- LOVING LEADER AND OF GREAT DEFENDER OF HUMAN CAUSE HAVE STRENGTHENED MY ADMIRATION FOR YOUR SPIRIT OF EQUITY, I WOULD LIKE TO
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TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY ABOUT THE PRECISE SITUATION IN MY COUNTRY FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN PARIS, ON JUNE 13, 1973, AND TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON THE KHMER POPULATION BY THE NORTH- VIETNAMESE AND VIETCONG AGGRESSORS.

3. THOUGH OUR ANXIETY IS ALREADY STRONG BECAUSE OF THE REPEATED VIOLATIONS PERPETRATED BY THE NORTH- VIETNAMESE AND VIETCONG REGULAR FORCES IN KHMER TERRITORY IN SPITE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS OF JANUARY 27, 1973, IT HAS LATELY WORSENERD DUE TO THE NON- COMPLIANCE OF THIS COUNTRY AND MOVEMENT WITH THE ARTICLE 13 OF THE JUN 13, 1973 COMMUNIQUE REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES FROM CAMBODIA.

4. ON THE CONTRARY, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE CONTRACTED A WRITTEN AGREEMENT, THE HANOI AND VIETCONG LEADERS HAVE INTENSIFIED THEIR MILITARY OPERATIONS EXPECIALLY AROUND THE KHMER CAPITAL. MOREOVER, THEIR FORCES HAVE MULTIPLIED THEIR FEROCIOUS AND INHUMANE TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST THE ARMED FORCES OF MY COUNTRY AND, EVEN WORSE, TO THE DETRIMENT OF INNOCENT CIVILIAN PEOPLE. IN THEIR CAMPAIGN OF TERROR, THEY WOULD USE EVERY MEANS TO ACHIEVE THEIR CRIMINAL AIM, INCLUDING THOSE EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN BY THE GENEVA CONVENTION SUCH AS FOR EXAMPLE THE USE OF POISONOUS GAS, THE SLAUGHTERING OF MONKS AND CIVILIAN POPULATION, THE RAPING, RAIDING ETC... OF INHABITANTS.

5. THE CASE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE FORCED AT GUN POINT TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES, ABANDON THEIR RICE FIELDS AND WORK TOOLS, TO GO AND LIVE IN UNHEALTHY JUNGLES, DESERVES A SPECIAL ATTENTION. BEING DESTITUTE AND RECEIVING IRREGULAR SUSTENANCE RATIONS, THEY ARE DECIMATED BY DISEASES RESULTING FROM THE POOR DIET AND LACK OF BASIC MEDICAL CARE IN CASE OF ILLNESS. SINCE MALARIA IS ENDEMIC IN KHMER JUNGLES, THEIR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL ARE PRACTICALLY NIL. THIS FACT IS PLANNED BY HANOI WHO THROUGH GENOCIDE TRIES TO DEPOPULATE OUR LAND AND ENABLE THE NORTH- VIETNAMESE TO COLONIZE IT FOLLOWING THE ADVANCE OF THEIR ARMED FORCES.

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6. SOMETIMES, DRIVEN BY DESPAIR, SOME OF THOSE VICTIMS SUCCEEDED, AT THE RISK OF THEIR LIVE, IN ESCAPING FROM THE AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE ENEMY. ALAS* BEFORE WITHDRAWING FROM ANY VILLAGE OR HAMLET THEY HAVE TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED, THE ENEMY MAKE A POINT OF SYSTEMATICALLY BURNING UP ALL HOUSES AND DWELLINGS. THE STATEMENTS AND TESTIMONIES OF KHMER REFUGEES ARE UNANIMOUS TO CONDEMN THESE

BARBAROUS ACTS COMMITTED BY THE NORTH- VIETNAMESE IN A
VIEW TO CARRY OUT THEIR TRADITIONAL EXPANSIONIST AIMS
AT MY COUNTRY' S EXPENSE.

7. EXCELLENCY, I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ABSTAIN FROM BRING-
ING UP THE EXTREMELY MURDEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE BOMBARD-
MENTS BY NORTH- VIETNAMESE AND ESPECIALLY BY THEIR HEAVY
ARTILLERY. THE FACT IS THAT THE VICTIMS ARE MOSTLY
CIVILIAN. THIS DOES NOT COME AS A SURPRISE FOR US SINCE
THE NORTH- VIETNAMESE ARE DETERMINED TO WEAKEN THE MORAL
OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND CREATE PANIC BY CONSTANTLY
TAKING THEM AS TARGETS. THE USE OF THE 122 MM ROCKETS
WITH QUESTIONABLE PRECISION CLEARLY SHOWS THAT DETERMIN-
ATION TO WEAR OUT THE ENDURANCE OF THE KHMER PEOPLE WHO
ARE SUFFERING IN THEIR HEART AND BLOOD FROM THE NORTH-
VIETNAMESE AND VIETCONG COMMUNIST AGGRESSIONS. THROUGH
FALSE PROPAGANDA, THE LATTERS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN HUSHING
UP THESE FACTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL AND PARTICULARLY
AMERICAN OPINION AND TO ROUSE THEM AGAINST THE EFFECTS
OF THE BOMBINGS OF CAMBODIA BY AMERICAN AIRCRAFT DONE
AT THE REQUEST OF THE KHMER GOVERNMENT. THEIR PROTEST
IS QUITE COMPREHENSIVE DUE TO THE FACT THAT IN THE CONDUCT
OF THESE OPERATIONS, CONSTANT CARE IS BEING TAKEN TO
AVOID DAMAGES TO CIVILIAN POPULATION AND PROPERTIES WHILE
DELAING HEAVY BLOWS AT THE AGGRESSORS BY BREAKING UP THE
CONCENTRATION OF THEIR FORCES AND BY PARTIALLY DESTROYING
BOTH THE HEAVY AND LIGHT NUMEROUS ARTILLERY PIECES THEY
ABSOLUTELY NEED TO FULFILL THEIR POLICY OF TERRORISM
AND GENOCIDE.

NOTE BY OC/ T: DPW TAKE AS ORIGINAL.

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MRN: 1973PHNOM 006361 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000002 ERROR READING TEXT
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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